



San Joaquin River
Parkway and
Conservation Trust, Inc.

December 14, 2021

Chairperson Mike Karbassi
San Joaquin River Conservancy Board of Directors
Sent by Electronic Mail

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Executive Director

Re: \$15 million of Operations and Maintenance Funding for the Parkway!

Dear Chairperson Karbassi and Members of the Board:

After reviewing the December 15, 2021 Agenda Packet, I fear that you are missing out on a historic opportunity to make the San Joaquin River Parkway the great community amenity that is envisioned for our region.

In recent community planning efforts, the Parkway is described as *a long-term effort to create a continuous trail system and open space areas along the river from Friant Dam to Highway 99. The Parkway will provide more people with opportunities to explore and experience the river in vibrant natural areas with clean restrooms and trails, and regular safety patrols to provide education and assistance to visitors. The built-out Parkway includes timeless amenities to improve quality of life in the San Joaquin Valley: a healthy river ecosystem filled with wildlife, walking trails throughout the 22-mile parkway, multiple pedestrian bridges, education programs, bicycle and boat rentals, and thousands of people benefitting from the physical and mental health benefits accruing from time spent in nature.*

Does this sound like a good future for our community? I hope so. And the great news is that the future is NOW!

Thanks to the great work of Assemblymember Arambula, Senator Caballero, and Governor Newsom, and the many proponents of Measure P, the Conservancy now has more funding available than ever anticipated. \$15 million available now



CREATING AND PROTECTING THE SAN JOAQUIN RIVER PARKWAY

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from the State of California, and approximately \$750,000 per year for the next 30 years from Measure P through the City of Fresno.

But what are the plans for spending this money? A few term positions and vehicles, and some no-cost RFP's to operate Parkway land?

Unless I greatly misunderstand agenda items F-6 and F-7, Conservancy staff have no intention of utilizing operations and maintenance funding for the daily operations and maintenance of two of the largest and most historically significant sites on the Parkway.

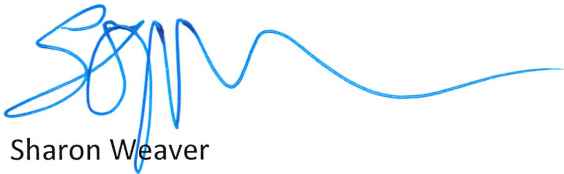
If these items move forward as described, this will potentially be the greatest missed opportunity in the 33-year history of the San Joaquin River Parkway.

Please don't let this opportunity pass you by. Direct your staff to rewrite the requests for proposals as requests for bids to provide services to the Conservancy.

The residents of our region and the people of California are counting on you.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Sharon Weaver', with a long, flowing horizontal line extending to the right.

Sharon Weaver
Executive Director

CC: Assemblymember Joaquin Arambula
Senator Anna Caballero